Nigeria, Angola, Cuba, Sierra Leone and Ecuador. It is also willing to evaluate opportunities available in other countries.

(c) Reports have appeared in the Press regarding the Mexican Government's requirements of foreign investment to exploit the huge oil reserves in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, however, no announcements have been made by Mexico inviting foreign participation in this regard. OVL would enthusiastically consider participation depending on the nature of the blocks/field available, when they are offered to foreign companies.

Investment in oil sector in Yemen

4268. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has expressed its desire to invest in the oil sector of Yemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the current oil reseves of Yemen;

(d) whether any discussion has been initiated between the Indian and Yemenese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Public Sector Oil companies have shown interest in exploration and production blocks in Yemen, modernisation of Aden Refinery Project and the proposed Hydrocracker Project, sourcing of natural gas from Yemen and LNG liquefaction plants in Yemen.

(c) The current oil reserves of Yemen are 4 billion barrels as reported by Oil & Gas Journal dated 20.12.2004.

(d) and (e) Bilateral discussions were held during the 5th session of the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee Meeting held in Sana'a between the 15th and 17th January, 2005. It has been decided, *inter alia* to form a Joint Technical Committee to discuss co-operation in all sectors of hydrocarbons.